



Mourne Heritage Trust

Youth Rangers 2026/2027

Are you 14 – 17 years old? Live in the Mourne area? Do you love exploring the mountains and coast? Do you want to learn new skills help protect these amazing spaces?

We are seeking applications from young people who have a genuine interest in nature conservation and outdoor activities. They should be enthusiastic to join a group of peers to learn new skills and develop an understanding of the work that goes into caring for the Mourne AONB.

The programme will run for 8 sessions, between May 26 and March 27, and will take place on Sundays.

Accreditation for the Youth Ranger programme will be available through Ulster Wildlife's **Wild Youth Award** scheme which recognises the time young people spend protecting and connecting with nature. It may also be possible to use the programme for the Duke of Edinburgh award skills!

We're excited to bring back our Youth Ranger programme. Many thanks to **Action Renewables** for their funding support, and to **Landscapes NI** for securing it.

What's Involved:

The sessions will be varied with plenty of opportunities to get out and explore the Mourne AONB. Some more information on the types of activities we will undertake is

detailed below. The sessions will be planned in advance and dates will be shared with plenty of notice.

- Hillwalking days learning hill skills including basic navigation as well as learning about local flora, geology and past industry.
- Learning about our coast and the variety of life it supports, including rock pooling and helping protect it through beach cleans.
- Learning about our native trees: tree ID, tree seed collection, processing and tree planting.
- Survey work such as peat depth surveys where the depth of peat is measured and vegetation surveys to help us quantify the health of habitat in the Mournes.
- Learning about heritage (natural, built and cultural) of the local area.

Sessions will take place on **Sundays** with the first session on **Sunday 10th May**

Youth Ranger activities are weather dependent so may be subject to change

Eligibility:

Age Range: Applicants must be between 14 and 17 years old for the duration of the project (14yrs by 10th May 26 and 17yrs until 31st March 27).

Residency: Applicants should have a strong interest and connection with the Mournes. In the event of oversubscription priority will be given applicants who live within the Mourne AONB and neighbouring areas.

Commitment to the programme:

Applicants will need to be able to commit to the programme. Participants should have good availability on Sundays during the programme (May 26 – March 27). There is a break planned in July and August to accommodate holidays.

Applicants must be willing to spend the day outdoors, engaging in physical activities such as hiking and conservation tasks, in the variety of conditions our weather can throw at us!

Youth Ranger sessions will take place across the Mourne AONB, participants will be expected to have transport to a meeting point and possibly a collection point which will be arranged well in advance.

Parents/guardians should sign up promptly to sessions when they receive information from the Leader. Please ensure young people arrive at the designated site on time, and notify the leader immediately of any last-minute absences, such as due to illness.

Code of Conduct: All applicants and parents/guardians will be asked to accept the code of conduct for the programme. This can be found below.

Kit & Equipment required:

Any specialised kit, equipment or PPE will be provided however **applicants should have:**

- A pair of walking boots
- A raincoat
- Some warm layers to be comfortable for the day while out on sessions.
- Packed lunches will also be required to enable us to make the most of days out.

If you have any queries regarding the programme, please email us at:

volunteering@mourne.co.uk

Application:

Applications are via an online form [HERE](#)

You will be asked to **tell us in 500 words (MAX)**

1. What is your favourite place in Mourne and why?
2. What would make you a great Mourne Youth Ranger?

Completed applications should be received by **Wednesday 8th April 2026 @ 5pm.**

Keep an eye on your inbox – we'll be in touch on Friday 10th April 2026!

To secure a place the parental consent form needs to be completed by parent/guardian online. The link for this will be included in the email to successful candidates.

by Friday 17th April 2026.

Code of Conduct for Youth Rangers

At all times participants taking part in the Mourne Youth Ranger Programme must act with appropriate and respectful behaviour.

Youth Rangers should:

- Take responsibility for their own actions
- Respect the interests of other people
- Care for the environment

Youth Rangers should also:

- Listen to and follow instructions of leaders

- Participate fully with activities
- Work as part of a team and support the aims of the team

Youth Rangers should never:

- Engage in physical or suggestive games of horseplay
- Display any forms of bullying behaviour
- Use vulgar or abusive language, or language of a sexual nature including innuendo.
- Abuse equipment or facilities. Any wilful, negligent or deliberate damage to property must be paid for by the person who caused it.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that offends, annoys or cause distress to others or members of staff. This includes any behaviour that involves racism, sexism, sectarianism or bullying.
- Use personal electronic devices e.g., cameras, mobile phones to take photographs and videos of other participants or staff.

When young people choose to engage in behaviours that are unacceptable the following will be used: Yellow and Red Card System

1. Before a card is given a staff member will speak to the young person giving the young person an opportunity to change their behaviour/s.
2. If the unacceptable behaviour continues a yellow card will be issued and the Senior Leader will be informed. At this stage the parent or legal guardian will be contacted.
3. A red card will be given if there is no improvement in behaviour. Once the red card is issued the following will take place:
 - The young people will be informed that a red card has been issued.
 - The parent or legal guardian will be contacted and informed of their behaviour and asked to meet with the leader-in-charge to decide the way forward.
 - In extreme cases this may result in time off from future session/s.
 - Only in the event of an extremely serious or dangerous incident will a child be suspended from a scheme/activity with immediate effect. In such circumstances, the child's parent/guardian will be contacted and may be asked to collect their child.